

The Rappahannock Valley.

An interesting article on the "Rappahannock Valley," appears in the March number of *DeWitt's Review*. The article is from the pen of Mr. Geo. Fitzhugh. As whatever pertains to the history of the country lying upon that noble river whose waters were ploughed by the keels of the steamers "Virginia" and "William Selden" cannot fail to interest the people of the Monumental City, we shall very briefly epitomize the points of Mr. Fitzhugh's entertaining paper.

The Rappahannock Valley, on account of its great beauty and fertility, attracted settlers at so early a period that population seems to have advanced in it upward from the Chesapeake *pari passu* with that on James river. Captain Smith sailed up the Rappahannock to its falls soon after the settlement of Jamestown. In 1652 the county of Lancaster sent members to the House of Burgesses, and in 1669 forts were established simultaneously at the falls of the Rappahannock and the James. It is believed that as far back as 1630 colonists must have occupied the lands on either side of the mouth of the former stream. Owing to the "aquatic" and "amphibious" character of the English, the land was settled in narrow strips along the margin of the river, and this accounts for the present form of the counties in the northern neck, which do not run across the Rappahannock to the Potomac, although nature has pointed out the boundaries. No other two large rivers in the world run parallel and so near each other for a long distance as the two just mentioned. A hundred and twenty miles from their mouths they are only twelve miles apart, and thence to the Chesapeake the average is only twenty miles.

Mr. Fitzhugh, evidently in love with his subject, claims that the Rappahannock Valley is the most productive on the whole Atlantic coast, and the most beautiful, except that of the Hudson; and the Northern Neck he considers the finest part of Virginia. The first rivers of the fertile region were English, and their descendants, next Scotch merchants, then French Huguenots, and lastly Scotch Jacobites, a tolerably homogeneous and certainly a worthy class of people. Among the first houses built after population began to thicken in Rappahannock Valley, were places for the deposits and inspection of tobacco called "rolling-houses," so named because there were few wagons, in those days, and people rolled their tobacco to market. In this connection, Mr. Fitzhugh recalls many other interesting reminiscences.—*Bull. American.*

A Lesson to be Learned.

There is a lesson which we as a people, and which the Democracy of the country especially, have yet to learn. They talk of extending the area of freedom, of the spread of Democratic principles, of the time when American institutions shall be adopted by all peoples, but are pursuing a course and setting an example which will most effectually prevent such desirable triumph and diffusion of free republicanism, popular government. They forget that one fact is more influential than a thousand boasts. They overlook the fact that the very misuse of that sovereignty which governs to the people, discredits popular government abroad as well as undermines it at home; that the proofs which they are, month by month and year by year, writing on the page of history that popular institutions may grow demoralization as well as despotism, are so many accumulating barriers to the spread of freedom, so many additional bulwarks for the protection of despotism. In case of peoples as well as of individuals, "actions speak louder than words," and such reckless and dangerous misuse of that sovereignty for purely political ends, of disregard of the citizen's right of franchise, as have been made during the last Congress, will have immensely more influence in other countries than a million stump speeches in favor of enlarging the area of freedom. If we would convert the world to a practical faith in popular government, we must demonstrate to the world that it bears the best fruits. There is a responsibility resting upon the American people to do this, but reform at home must precede its accomplishment.—*N. Y. Com.*

A Card.

Engagements of a pressing character will prevent me from replying fully at present to the extraordinary statements of Mr. Massey in this morning's Gazette.

I feel it to be incumbent upon me, however, to repeat at once the following declarations, as utterly false:

"But one course is left me, and that is to say that Col. C. E. Stuart told me not only in substance, but word for word, all that I stated in that Convention speech, saving and excepting the part about the Democratic procession."

To show that this is not true, it is only necessary to refer to the following letter of Mr. Massey, as proving that he relied upon me alone to establish one fact, as he has heretofore admitted in the Gazette.

ALEXANDRIA, March 17, 1859.

SIR: As the editor of the Virginia Sentinel has thought proper in his paper of the 10th inst. to convert a statement made by me to the late Whig and American Convention, as to Gov. Smith's knowledge of the party he was addressing from the March House Massacre, into a charge against me, I shall feel obliged if you will state your recollection of the circumstances of his making that speech. Your obedient servant, W. M. D. MASSEY.

To this single proposition, I responded by a statement of the facts, which has been suppressed.

If Mr. Massey stated not only in substance but word for word what I had told him, why did he confine his knowledge to one point alone? Mr. Massey knows that this was the only point which I ever held a conversation with him, upon this subject, and I have no hesitation in saying that my last card in the Sentinel contained the substance of all that I ever said upon the subject; and whether the contrary be affirmed by Mr. Massey, or his confederates, I denounce it as a wilful falsehood. CHARLES E. STUART.

Alexandria, March 29—11

TO FISHERMEN AND FARMERS.

6000 BUSHELS HEAVY BRIGHT SALT, suitable for the fisheries or Agricultural purposes. For sale at a low price, by

J. B. LAMBERT, Union Wharf.

WEDDING PRESENTS.—Just finished, a large lot of Fancy Silver Ware, of new and elegant designs, gotten up especially for Wedding Presents.

W. M. GALT & BROS., Jewellers, 354, Pa. av., 4 doors west of Washington, Jan. 30—21

DONOVAN'S SYRUP OF BARK; Stoughton's Tonic Bitters; Black Writing Ink; just manufactured, and for sale by

JAMES ENTWISLE, JR., Apothecary, 94 King-street.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.—Just received 13 kegs prime BUTTER, and 12 boxes Eastern CHEESE, in store and for sale by

JOHN E. HENDERSON, Cor. King & Alfred sts.

JUST RECEIVED another supply of Empire Cabs, Perambulators, and Spring rigs; also, Rolling Hoes, and Market Baskets, of all sizes, at

C. C. BERRY'S, 72 King-street.

SCOTCH OATS.—Just received from Scotland, a lot of Oats, weighing 48 lbs. per bushel, very superior. Price 25¢ per bushel, for cash.

DRAYTON G. MEADE, Jan. 30

SALT.—3000 bushels Turk's Island Salt, in prime order, low landing; also

300 sacks G. A. Salt, to arrive, and for sale by

M. E. LINDRIDGE, Union Wharf.

NEW GOODS.—RICHARDS, 110, King-st., has received his entire stock of Goods for this season, and would respectfully solicit a call.

TORRACCO SEED.—Maryland and Havana, received, and for sale by

L. COOK & CO., Sarepta Hall.

BY YESTERDAY EVENING'S MAILS.

THE CROPS.—The wheat crops throughout the country present a most promising appearance at this time, and particularly that which was drilled. There is an unusually large crop growing, and if the season should continue to be as favorable as it has been, our farmers will realize an unprecedented harvest.

We have never witnessed a more flattering prospect for an abundant crop of fruit of every description, than is everywhere in this section presented at this time. The peach and other descriptions of early fruit are in full bloom, and none have yet been injured, so far as we have observed.—*Woodstock Tenth Legion.*

MULES KILLED.—On Sunday evening last two mules were run over by a locomotive on the Central Railroad, near Victor's mill pond, just within the corporate limits, and so mangled up as to be rendered entirely worthless. Each of them had their legs badly broken and had to be killed.—*Rich. Dispatch.*

One of the clerks in the Post Office, in Richmond, Mr. Cople McGruder, while laboring under an aberration of mind, on Monday took a large dose of strychnine. The usual antidotes were resorted to, which saved him.

COMMUNICATED.

Please insert the following, copied from the New York Observer, and oblige. A. "A CHRIST-LIKE SENTIMENT.—Rev. Dr. Johns, an Episcopal clergyman in Baltimore, says of 'excessive denominationalism':—'Wherever this goes beyond love for souls, something is wrong. So fearful am I of this spirit, that I have been accustomed for years in passing a house of worship, of some other denomination than my own, to lift my heart to God in prayer for that minister and his people.'

DIED. In Washington, on the 28th instant, Mrs. MARGARET HOGAN, in the 58th year of her age, late of the county of Limerick, Ireland, and sister of John Simon, esq.

In Washington, on Sunday, the 27th instant, VIRGINIA FRANCES, wife of Frank A. M'Vee, and daughter of J. T. Johnson and Adeline Robinson, of Norfolk, Virginia, aged twenty-six years.

COMMERCIAL.

The Markets. BALTIMORE, March 29.—Flour is unchanged. Howard street \$2.25. Wheat closed with a declining tendency; white 140¢ (1850); red 145¢ (1850). Corn closed dull; white 75¢ (750); yellow has declined 2¢, 80¢ (800). Provisions closed dull and unchanged. Whiskey closed quiet. Coffee closed firm at 114¢ (112); for prime Rio.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Flour has declined: State, \$3.40 (3.50); Ohio, \$6.50 (6.75); Southern, \$6.20 (6.40). Wheat is very dull, and quotations at the close were nominally 16¢ (16c) lower. Corn closed quiet; white 117¢ (118); prime 112¢ (113). Lard closed dull with trivial sales. Whiskey closed at 27¢. Stocks are dull and lower. Cumberland Coal Company 234. Va. 63 98. Sterling exchange is firmer at 109½.

Liverpool Market, March 12.

Breakfasts.—The market has a declining tendency.—Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co. quote: The market is very dull, but prices are generally unchanged. Flour 10s (10s 3/4) 3d. Wheat—red 5s 9d (5s 2d); white 5s 7d (5s 10d). Corn—mixed and low 4s 6d (4s 6d); when her show before. Beef is firm for poor; finer qualities had declined 2d.

ALMANAC. 1859.

THIRD MONTH. SUN SUN MOON'S PHASES.

30 Wednesday 3 48 6 12 D. N. W.

31 Thursday 3 47 6 14 New Moon 3 10 P. M.

1 Friday 3 46 6 14 Full Moon 10 11 P. M.

2 Saturday 3 45 6 15 Full Moon 7 55 P. M.

3 Sunday 3 43 6 17 Last Quarter 21 11 A. M.

4 Monday 3 42 6 18 HIGH WATER

5 Tuesday 3 40 6 20 MARCH 30, 40 20m

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA—MARCH 29.

ARRIVED.

Schr. Helen Marr, Nickerson, Boston, to M. Elbridge.

Schr. Sarah E. Jones, Jones, New York, to Borden Mining Co.

Schr. Ann S. Brown, Brown, New York, to Borden Mining Co.

Schr. Beulah, Hanson, Providence, to Borden Mining Co.

SAILED.

Schr. James M. Baylis, Thompson, Boston, to D. B. Smith.

Propeller C. C. Alger, Shore, Philadelphia, by Wm. H. Fowler & Son.

Schr. Marietta Burr, Nickerson, from this port, arrived at Boston, 26th inst.

Schr. Sarah Woodbridge, Higgins, from Boston, for Georgetown, D. C., was ashore on George's Island, 25th inst., and lost part of her show before getting off. Will repair and proceed as early as possible.

Schr. Greenland, Eley, from this port, arrived at Providence, 26th inst.

DEPARTED.

Messrs. SMITH, SHACKLEFORD, and THOMAS, will address the Voters of Spotsylvania, on Monday, 4th of April; of King George, on Thursday, 7th of April—being the Court days of the several Counties. mh 18

JOHN F. CHANCEY.

(Agent for William Fowler & Son, D. C.)

FLORIST AND GARDENER.

Near Hull's Run, Upper End of King Street, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

HAS on hand a fine and varied assortment of ROSES and GREEN HOUSE PLANTS, which he will sell at low prices. The Ladies especially are invited to call and examine his assortment.

GRADING AND SODDING done at short notice, and in the best style. mh 20—21

A CARD.—TAYLOR & HUTCHISON take this method of returning their thanks to the friends and the citizens generally for the very liberal patronage extended them while in business in this place.

They will open in Washington shortly, an entirely new and desirable stock of GOODS, of which due notice will be given, and will be pleased to see among their Alexandria friends as may favour them with a call. mh 30—31

HUMOROUS BOOKS.—My Thirty Years out of the Senate, by the famous Major Jack Downing, illustrated, \$1.25.

Wild Western Scenes, Major Jones' Courtship, Sketches of Travel, Chronicles of Pinesville, Sam Slick's Yankee Yarns and Letters, Big Bear of Arkansas, &c., &c., received, and for sale by

JOHN P. PARROTT, mh 30

CANNON'S BITTERS: Diarrhoea Cordial: Kidney's Beech Drops: Kennedy's Medical Dispensary: Holloway's, Jaynes', and Brantford's Pills: McAlister's and McAlister's Machine Spread Plasters, and Sing's Isthmian Cure, for sale by

PEEL, STEVENS & CO., Cor. of King and Alfred-streets.

ALBERTINE OIL, superior to Castor Oil, received, and for sale by

H. COOK & CO., Sarepta Hall.

WHITE WASH BRUSHES.—Brushes of all kinds: Feather Dusters, and well known brands, for sale by

JOHN OGDEN, mh 30

CHILDREN'S CARRIAGES, for sale by

JOHN OGDEN, mh 30

OWING TO THE GREAT DEMAND FOR these beautiful little GEMS OF ART, HILL & O'NEIL'S AMBROTYPES, the PORTLAND SKY LIGHT SALOON will remain open King, near Washington street, till March 31st, and the citizens generally will be pleased to see among their Alexandria friends as may favour them with a call. mh 28—29

NOTICE TO GAS CONSUMERS.—Bills for the quarter ending March 15th, are now ready for payment. All bills paid within five days from presentation, a discount of 5 per cent will be allowed. (mh 29—31) J. ROXBURY, Supt.

BALES BEST TIMOTHY HAY, for sale by

WHEAT & BROS., mh 29

LOCAL ITEMS.

THE SOUTHERN MAIL was not left at this place yesterday, in consequence of the mail carrier not being at the wharf when the mail boat stopped, which was much earlier than usual. We received the Richmond Dispatch by the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

SASH.—On Monday night last, the lower floor of the Warehouse of Messrs. Barley & Triplett, in the rear of their store on King street, upon which were several tons of nails, crockery, &c., gave way, precipitating nails and other hardware, crockery, &c., in one promiscuous mass into the cellar below, and causing a considerable breakage to the crockery. Fears had been expressed during the day that the floor would not bear the weight, but they were not heeded, and yesterday morning the consequences were discovered on opening the door of the building. It is fortunate that it occurred at night when no one was in the building, as loss of life in addition to destruction of property, might have been the result.

FISH MARKET.—The arrivals of fish yesterday were about the same as on the previous day, and of excellent quality. Shad sold from \$16 to 20 and herring from \$12 to \$14. The prices depended upon the demand, when each vessel arrived, which varies throughout the day.

A Canal boat heavily laden with flour consigned to a merchant in Georgetown, sunk while on her downward passage on Sunday last. The cargo, consisting of 1100 barrels, was taken out of her before it sustained any damage of moment.

Fires having become so frequent of late in this place, and there is so little security for any out buildings, that we know of one gentleman who has sold his cow and torn down his stable, fearing that the stable might be set fire to and his adjacent property damaged.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON.—Rev. N. S. Green-awald preached his introductory sermon in the Methodist Protestant Church, on Sunday morning, to a very large and appreciative audience. He also delivered an excellent sermon in the evening. The style of the reverend gentleman is plain, yet eloquent and impressive, and the congregation was much interested and very attentive on both occasions.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES.—At the regular meeting of the Hydrantia Fire Company, No. 5, last Monday evening, Messrs. Wm. G. Simpson and John L. Smith, Jr., were duly elected to represent the Company in the Fire Department for the ensuing year. The President, Benjamin Barton, esq., and the two Wardens, Messrs. Richard L. Carney, Jr., and James S. Douglass, will be members of the Department, *ex officio*.

UNDER REPAIR.—We are requested to say that the Suction Engine, belonging to the Hydrantia Fire Company being under repair, no service can be rendered by that Company for the present, except as a Hose Company, and that the Chief Engineer has requested that the Hose Carriages be not brought out upon alarms of fire, except upon his special order.

GILLING.—A day or two since nineteen gill nets were counted on the river between this city and Washington. The gillers we understand are meeting with success.

LECTURE.—Rev. Dr. Ryder will deliver his sixth lecture at St. Mary's Church, this evening, at 7½ o'clock.

PROBABLE ROBBERY.—At an early hour yesterday morning, Mr. James King, of the arsenal, discovered two men overhearing the contents of a travelling trunk in an open square near the steamboat wharf. He got near enough to them to hear one declare that he had made six dollars in silver by the operation. Mr. King remonstrated with them, when the holder of the money replied that the owner could have it by calling on him for it; but as the individual is unknown the chances are against its being recovered. Mr. King placed the trunk and its contents in the hands of policeman Lloyd, who discovered the owner's name to be T. M. Lewis of Virginia. It is probable that the two men who were lost or stolen *en route* from the depot to the boat, but whether the two men in whose possession it was discovered were guilty of robbery was not known yesterday.—*Wash. States.*

THE Washington chief of police, under direction of Mayor Berret, has organized a special detective police force, who will use most active and unremitting exertions to detect the vile perpetrators of the frequent incendiary fires in the Seventh Ward.

Capt. Meigs has addressed a letter to the Mayor of Washington, in relation to the Washington aqueduct and the water supply now available. He thinks that during the spring and fall the stream which flows into the reservoir now can be depended upon for an average supply of two million gallons, and the full head be preserved in the reservoir. There should be no apprehension of an insufficient supply of water for domestic purposes, to prevent the city from entering at upon the work of laying the distributing pipes under the act of Congress.—Captain Meigs adds: "I cannot too strongly urge the importance of at once entering upon the work of laying the distributing pipes. The loan authorized by Congress should lay, if judiciously managed, in Washington and Georgetown, some forty or fifty miles of pipe. The government mains are so laid that the city will be sufficiently supplied for many years by laying only four inch and six inch pipe, and but a few of the latter."

On Monday evening last, a son of Mr. Wisemiller, while standing on the corner of King and Alfred streets, had his cap impudently snatched from off his head by a colored boy, who ran down King and turned into Washington street, but with such speed as to prevent his being overtaken, although hotly pursued by several youths. This was a "small highway robbery."

GRAPE SHAWLS CLEANED AND DYED all the various shades of colors, and colors retained. Samples of which can be seen at the Alexandria Steam Dyeing Establishment, mh 17—20m

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS.—Just received from Kentucky, a superior lot of pure and clean Kentucky Blue Grass, also, English Lawn Grass seed, for sale by

DRAYTON G. MEADE, No. 12, Fairfax st.

EXPRESS STEAM LINE FOR PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.

The Proprietor J. JEROME, Captain Jerome, will sail on Saturday 24 April, for the above ports. For freight, apply to

WM. H. FOWLE & SON, No. 4, South Wharf.

25 HALF boxes and barrels of J. S. Lover, 25 ing & Co's. Refined Sugars, in store, and for sale by

MARSHALL & WARD, mh 29

PORTSCRIPT.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Later from Havana and Central America.

New York, March 29.—The steamship Empire City, from Havana on the 24th, has arrived with a portion of the passengers and mails of the steamer Illinois. The Granada was to leave Havana on the same day with the treasure and the remainder of the passengers.

A letter from Panama of the 16th says that Sir W. Gore Ouseley's treaty was ratified and definitely signed by Martinez, and transmitted to England on the 10th inst., in the steamer from Aspinwall to Southampton.

The Havana papers confirm the loss of the English steamer Jassaur.

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BALTIMORE COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, Pennsylvania, A. C., which will be sent by return mail free of charge, with Catalogue containing list of Students, terms of tuition, opinions of the Press on our new system of Book-keeping, &c.

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H. H. DAVIES, Associate Prof. of Book-keeping, N. C. JOHNSON, Professor of Penmanship.

S. T. WILLIAMS, Esq., Mercantile Law.

REV. E. Y. REESE, D. D., Commercial Ethics.

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The time usually required to complete the full Course, from 8 to 12 weeks.

A Diploma is awarded to all Graduates.

Large Circulars and Catalogues, stating terms, &c., sent by mail free of charge.

E. K. LOSIER, Baltimore, Md.

mh 20—21

GROVER & BAKER'S

Celebrated FAMILY SEWING MACHINES.

NEW STYLES—PRICES FROM \$20 TO \$125.

Agents, and Sole Importers, for the United States, 495 Broadway, New York.

These Machines sew from two spools, as purchased from the factory, requiring no re-winding of thread. They Hem, Fell, Gather, and Stitch in a superior style, finishing each seam by their own operation, without recourse to the hand needle, as is required by other machines. They will do letter and chain-stitching, and a host of other work, even if they were for one out on hand, and are, unquestionably, the most perfect and useful family sewing machines on account of their simplicity, durability, economy, and adaptation to all varieties of family sewing—executing either heavy or fine work with equal facility, and without special adjustment.

As evidence of the unquestioned superiority of their Machines, the GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINE COMPANY respectfully refer to the numerous testimonials to be seen at their principal depot, and with their agents.

SPRING TRADE FOR 1859.

GEORGE W. HOWARD & CO.,

SOLE AGENTS, FOR THE UNITED STATES, 495 Broadway, New York.

FORGIVE AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS.

RESPECTFULLY call attention to the attention of purchasers to their large and general stock of FINE AND DOMESTIC STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, which has been gotten up under the most favorable circumstances.

Our stock embraces the most leading styles of STAPLE GOODS adapted to the Southern trade, such as Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and the most desirable styles of FINE AND DOMESTIC STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, including all the latest and best styles of the most popular and useful fabrics, such as Broad and Bleached Linens, Ducks, and Drills; Plaster's Linens; Richardson's and Owen's superior Family Linens, with other good makes of makes of prints, including "Merrimacs," our object being to make our stock as attractive as possible to the best of business buyers.

Baltimore, Md., 10th 9—apt 10

1859. SPRING SUPPLY.

HARPER & BALDWIN,

Wholesale Dealers in BOOTS, SHOES, HATS AND STRAW GOODS, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

HAVE the pleasure to announce to their customers and dealers generally, the arrival of their SPRING STOCK of

BOOTS, SHOES, HATS AND STRAW GOODS, comprising 1500 CASES and CARTONS OF SEASONABLE GOODS, all of which have been purchased direct of the Manufacturers in New England, on the most favorable terms.

Country Merchants and Dealers, visiting this market are requested to examine their stock before purchasing elsewhere, as it is their determination to offer such inducements in the way of bargains as cannot fail to please. HARPER & BALDWIN, mh 12—21

C. F. SUTTLE & CO.

ARE NOW RECEIVING per Schrs. Rescue and Statesman, their SPRING SUPPLIES of GROCERIES, to which they invite attention.

We name in part:—